

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MOGADI 00316 030846Z

11
ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EUR-25 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 PM-07

NSC-10 SPC-03 SAM-01 SS-20 RSC-01 IO-14 PA-04 PRS-01

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 OMB-01 ACDA-19 TRSE-00 A-01

OPR-02 SY-10 DRC-01 DODE-00 /149 W

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O P 030818Z MAR 74
FM AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1678
USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
AMEMBASSY ROME
USCINCEUR
CINCLANT
CINCPAC
COMIDEASTFOR

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOGADISCIO 0316

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR PINS SO ET

SUBJ: SOMALI DENIES ANY MILITARY INTERVENTION

REF: MOGADISCIO 0312 (NOTAL)

1. DURING QADHAFI FESTIVITIES LAST NIGHT (MARCH 2) SRC MEMBER WARSAMA AND OTHER HIGH SOMALI OFFICIALS STRONGLY EMPHASIZED TO ME AND SEVERAL OTHER DIPLOMATICS THAT GSDR HAD NO INTENTION OF SEEKING TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF CURRENT ETHIOPIAN DISTURBANCES. THEY SAID GSDR HAD ISSUED STRICTEST INSTRUCTIONS TO MILITARY TO AVOID PROVOCATION AND TO INFORMATION MEDIA TO MAINTAIN ABSOLUTELY CORRECT, HANDS-OFF POLICY.

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PAGE 02 MOGADI 00316 030846Z

2. WARSAMA AND SOMALI AMBASSADOR TO ITALY (IN MOGADISCIO ON

CONSULTATION) GAVE FRG AMBASSADOR LONG AND ANGRY LECTURE BECAUSE GERMAN GOVERNMENT RADIO (DEUTSCHE WELLE) HAD REPEATED ITALIAN RADIO CORRESPONDENT'S REPORT FROM ADDIS TO EFFECT SOMALIS HAD ATTACKED ACROSS BORDER AND LOST FOUR TANKS AND TWO MIG-17'S. THEY SAID ITALIAN AND GERMAN AMBASSADORS WOULD BE CALLED IN TO RECEIVE OFFICIAL PROTEST. GERMAN AMBASSADOR' PROTESTATIONS THAT DEUTSCHE WELLE HAD CONSIDERABLE AUTONOMY, HAD CARRIED REPORT ONLY ONCE, AND WAS CARRYING SOMALI DENIAL OF IT, MADE LITTLE DENT ON HIS INTERLOCUTORS, WHO (WITH APPARENTLY GENUINE INDIGNATION) CHARACTERIZED ITALIAN AND GERMAN RADIOS' ACTION AS "GRATUITOUS AND UNFRIENDLY ACT" AT TIME WHEN SOMALIA USING UTMOST CARE TO BEHAVE CORRECTLY VIS-A-VIS ETHIOPIA.

3. COMMENT: (A) WE HAVE NO RPT NOT INFO THAT SOMALIS HAVE MADE ANY MILITARY MOVE AGAINST ETHIOPIA;

(B) SOMALI REACTION TO US GOVERNMENT MEDIA CARRYING REPORTS OF UNCONFIRMED MILITARY INITIATIVES WOULD BE EVEN MORE VIOLENT THAN IN CASE OF GERMANS. I THEREFORE CONSIDER IT EXTREMELY IMPORTANT THAT VOA CONTINUE TO AVOID CARRYING ANY UNCONFIRMED REPORTS OF THIS NATURE. I URGE THAT DEPT DO WHAT IT CAN TO KEEP US PRIVATE MEDIA AWARE THAT SOMALIA TO BEST OF OUR BELIEF HAS SO FAR MADE REAL EFFORT TO AVOID ACTIONS OR WORDS WHICH MIGHT BE TAKEN AS EFFORT TO PROFIT FROM ETHIOPIAN DIFFICULTIES.

KIRK

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